

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-16 (canceled).

17. (currently amended) Intervertebral prosthesis comprising:

an elastic body made of a material which is flexible in all directions, said elastic body constructed and arranged for placement in an inter-laminar region between two adjacent lumbar vertebrae, and

means for securing the elastic body to the adjacent lumbar vertebrae comprising means for engaging the vertebrae between laminar arches of the adjacent lumbar vertebrae.

18. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to Claim 1 17, wherein said securing means comprises an anchoring plate for each end of the elastic body for anchoring to the corresponding laminar arch of each of the adjacent lumbar vertebrae.

19. (previously presented) Prosthesis according to claim 18, wherein said plate is substantially rigid.

20. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 17, wherein each said plate has a plurality of projections shaped and arranged for co-acting with a corresponding laminar arch of each of the adjacent lumbar vertebra.

21. (previously presented) Prosthesis according to claim 20, wherein each said plate has three projections towards the corresponding laminar arch.

22. (previously presented) Prosthesis according to claim 20, wherein each said plate includes a median projection constructed and arranged for insertion into spinal foramen of the vertebra and two laterally spaced apart lateral projections constructed and arranged for insertion in contact with corresponding outer surfaces of laminae forming the

laminar arch.

23. (previously presented) Prosthesis according to claim 22, wherein said median projection is sufficiently thin that for insertion into spinal foramen of the vertebra without compressing the spinal cord.

24. (previously presented) Prosthesis according to claim 17, additionally comprising connection means to connect said securing means to said elastic body.

25. (previously presented) Prosthesis according to claim 24, wherein said connection means include ligatures, each of said ligatures passing through first holes provided in said plates and corresponding second holes provided in said elastic body, said first holes and said second holes being in line with each other.

26. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 17, wherein each of said anchoring plates has a surface groove in contact with the elastic body, for insertion of a corresponding tip of a divaricator forceps in order to separate the adjacent lumbar vertebrae between which the prosthesis is to be fitted.

27. (previously presented) Prosthesis according to claim 26, wherein said grooves in the plates are orientated parallel to each other.

28. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 17, further comprising an auxiliary ligament for spinous processes of the adjacent lumbar vertebrae between which the prosthesis is introduced.

29. (previously presented) Prosthesis according to claim 28, wherein at least one of said plates includes engaging means for engaging said auxiliary ligament.

30. (previously presented) Prosthesis according to claim 29, wherein each of said plates includes engaging means for engaging said auxiliary ligament.

31. (previously presented) Prosthesis according to claim 29, wherein said engaging means include at least one lateral hook for at least one of said plates.

32. (previously presented) Prosthesis according to claim 29, wherein said engaging means include two lateral hooks for each of said plates.